

#### IX.4.0A INTRODUCTION TO THE HYDROLOGIC COMMAND LANGUAGE DATA BASE DESCRIPTION

##### Purpose

The Hydrologic Command Language (HCL) [[Hyperlink](#)] is the mechanism through which the user interacts with the Operational Forecast Program (FCST) [[Hyperlink](#)]. HCL decodes user commands, determines what the user wants to do and calls the proper parts of FCST to perform the desired actions.

HCL is designed to keep the information needed at run times as simple as possible but also be very flexible to accommodate the variety of information that may be required. The HCL Data Base (HCLDB) stores the information needed to perform a desired process and also allow for changes to this information at run time.

The read/write routines described in Section IX.3.0 [[Hyperlink](#)] can be used to access the HCLDB.